

oPt Emergency Situation Update

Issue 24



7 Oct 2023 - 3 Mar 2024 at 16:00



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

Gaza Strip

Overview

Source: Ministry of Health. As of 19 February 2023



30,534 Fatalities

70% are said to be women and children



71,920 Injuries



+7,780

reported missing or under the rubble



1.7M People

(75% of population) displaced

According to Israeli authorities, over 1200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed inside Israel, and approximately 5,400 reported injuries. There have been 244 reported fatalities and 1,451 reported injuries of Israeli soldiers since the start of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip. One hundred and thirty four hostages remain in Gaza.

Health Care Functioning, Access and Risks

Hospitals



33%

12/36 Hospitals partially functioning

Estimated average bed occupancy: 295%



3%

1/36 Hospitals minimally functional



67%

2/3 field Hospitals fully functional

UAE Field Hospital
IMC Field Hospital



33%

1/3 field Hospitals minimally functional

Jordanian Military Hospital



PHCCs

20/80* Primary health care facilities are functional

* The number of PHCCs includes active NGOs.

Malnutrition



17 children Died of malnutrition

Northern Gaza: **10-13%** of children with acute malnutrition (**3%** of children with severe acute malnutrition)

Southern Gaza: **2-6%** of children with acute malnutrition



Referrals abroad through Rafah since start of war **2,613** including **1,698** wounded and **915** ill, accompanied by **1,785** companions

Communicable Diseases

Ongoing outbreaks of diarrheal illness and hepatitis A. Cases recorded since mid-October:



388,206 Cases of acute respiratory infections



218,358 Cases of diarrhea <5 years: **105,770***



75,864 Cases of scabies and lice



42,822 Cases of skin rashes



6,486 Cases of chickenpox



11,609 Cases of jaundice[§]

* As of Jan 1st, figures include those reported by MoH only.

§ Presumed Hepatitis A after samples tested positive

Health Attacks



406 Health attacks



682 People killed in attacks



901 People injured in attacks



118 Health workers detained/arrested



99 Health facilities affected



30 Hospitals damaged



104 Ambulances affected



54 That sustained damaged



399 Fatalities



4,600 Injuries

Health Attacks

376 Health attacks



10 People killed in attacks



65 People injured in attacks



45 Health facilities affected

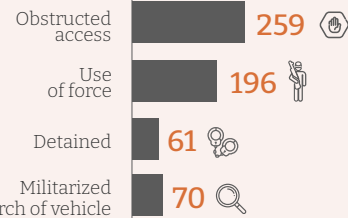


Including

15 mobile clinics



261 Ambulances affected



Key concerns

- Continued dismantling of the health system. Hospitals in Rafah are overwhelmed and struggling to keep up with needs. Operations of two hospitals in Khan Younis have been jeopardized: besiegement of Al-Amal hospital is rendering it minimally functional, while the damage that occurred to Nasser Medical Complex has left it non-functional. This, accompanied by the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) migrating to Rafah, is straining the capacity of the health system to meet the health care needs of the population in the south.
- Continuing high level of insecurity, destroyed roads and infrastructure, and lack of proper facilitation of humanitarian missions continue to hinder health access. A sustained operational deconfliction mechanism is needed to facilitate multiple daily humanitarian missions across the Gaza Strip.
- Access of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) to North Gaza hospitals has not been possible due to the security situation, with no current EMT activities conducted in this area.
- Rates of malnutrition are increasing. Given extreme levels of food insecurity and disease outbreaks. Opportunistic screening efforts have revealed significantly increased levels of moderate and severe malnutrition among children. According to MOH reports, a total of 17 children died in northern Gaza due to complications of severe malnutrition.
- Estimated 8,000 critical patients need to be medically evacuated out of Gaza, including over 6,000 trauma related patients, and 2,000 patients with serious chronic conditions (e.g. cancer).
- Partner operations continue to be negatively affected by the displacement of staff, social stresses, and lack of telecommunication.
- Limited access to proper WASH facilities continues to contribute to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Ongoing outbreaks of infectious disease, including diarrhoeal illness and hepatitis A, with increases of bloody diarrhea observed.

Response

• WHO

- To date, WHO has procured \$17.1 million in health commodities, 60% of which is already delivered to Gaza (467 metric tonnes), including essential Trauma Emergency Supply Kits (TESK), NCD Kits, orthopaedic fixators, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Procurement also includes critical medications and supplies that are needed to maintain provision of essential mental health, oncology, and haemodialysis services.
- WHO conducted a two-day training on the WHO guidelines for managing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with complications. The training targeted 18 health staff, including 8 paediatricians who will be working at the SAM stabilization centre, in Rafah. WHO will support the centre with SAM kits and therapeutic milk formula, to cover the needs for 6 months.
- WHO finalized the infection prevention and control technical guide to be used in health facilities for disinfection.
- WHO response is significantly hindered due to insufficient humanitarian access and corridors, both inside the strip and from outside.

• Partners

- 45 health cluster partners are providing different humanitarian health interventions across Gaza benefiting 1M beneficiaries, including supplies provision. The weekly average number of people reached by partners through services in the Gaza Strip is about 184,100, whilst supplies have a weekly reach of about 105,350 patients.



- The EMTCC is implementing quality assurance and support visits to operational EMTs, to ensure provision of quality services meeting the minimum desired standards. The list of definitions for the EMT Minimum Data Set (MDS) indicators has also been finalized and disseminated among EMTs, to enhance the quality of future reporting.
- Ongoing coordination with the Nutrition Cluster on screening of 6-59 months children for malnutrition. Since 25 February, 39 new cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were detected and treated, with two cases referred to Emirati hospital for inpatient care.
- The finalized “Protocol for Management of EPI Priority Diseases”, developed by WHO, was endorsed by the Ministry of Health to be shared with partners.

WHO Mission Update

20 Feb - 4 Mar 2024



11

Missions planned
(in the North and South)



6

Missions facilitated
(additionally, 3 partially facilitated)



3

Missions impeded
(ie. delays/unpassable routes)



2

Missions denied

Update on missions since Feb 20th:

- **On 20 February**, WHO led a mission to transfer 19 patients, including some in critical condition, from Nasser Medical Complex to hospitals in southern Gaza, amid ongoing hostilities and access restrictions.
- **On 27 February**, WHO, in close partnership with PRCS, led a life-saving mission reaching the besieged Al-Amal hospital in Khan Younis, and transferred 24 patients, including one pregnant woman, one mother and a newborn, to other hospitals in southern Gaza. Thirty-one patients are currently still in the hospital.
- **In early March**, WHO led two life-saving missions to Northern Gaza, to provide essential fuel and medical supplies. The first mission on 1st March was to Shifa hospital in Gaza governorate, during which WHO and partners have delivered 19,000L of fuel, and critical medical supplies, including fixators and severe acute malnutrition kits, to maintain provision of essential health services. The second mission, on 3rd March, was to Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals in the North governorate, providing 19,500L of fuel for each hospital, in addition to essential medical supplies.

WHO Recommendations

- Immediate ceasefire
- Expand and sustain humanitarian access into Gaza for fuel, water, food, medicines and other necessary supplies
- Expand humanitarian corridors and ensure safe passage to allow delivery of humanitarian aid within Gaza
- Active protection of civilians and health care, preserving the function of remaining health facilities
- Establish and strengthen a routine process for medical evacuation for all patients in need, without distinction of any kind, ensuring timely referral of the +8,000 critical patients that need to be medevaced out of Gaza.

Funding

\$320M funding required for WHO Operational Response

110M for Oct 2023 - Mar 2024

210M for Apr 2024 - Dec 2024

\$88M secured

\$37M
Pledged

- The inter-cluster Flash Appeal has been revised and the funding requirement for humanitarian health response is **\$204.2M*** and is targeting 2.5M people in Gaza and West Bank, of which 50% is funded.

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